



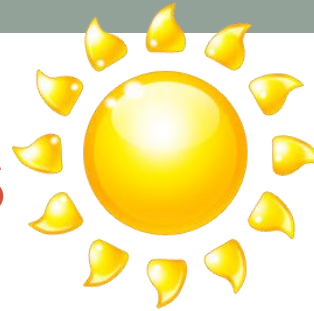
CTOBER 2014

SAFETY MEETING



- **Defensive Driving – Seasonal GLARE Issues**
- **Deer & Animal Collision Avoidance**
- **Chain Saw Safety Practices**
- **Cold Weather – Seasonal Preparedness**
- **General Reminders**

Defensive Driving Tips



- Keep your polarized, tinted lenses handy with you, especially in early AM and late afternoon when sunlight angle creates strong **GLARE!!**
- Glare is very insidious. Depending on the angle and direction it can actually obscure your vision, creating BLIND SPOTS, potentially very dangerous.
- Wearing polarized lenses helps a lot to minimize glare, BUT the reciprocal function is also very important to understand: REMOVE the shades when you are no longer in the glare conditions. Because after your retina has closed to block out the overwhelming glare, your vision is impaired in low light.
- It takes some getting used to but if you drive a regular route each day at the same time, plan for managing this issue. If you take a different route, be alert for the same issues, only the glare may be from a different direction.
- Protect yourself at all times. Be alert for other drivers who may not even see you because the glare was in their face.
- Be advised, the effects of early AM glare can easily erase the advantage of wearing high visibility garments. That driver might not even SEE YOU!
- Another reason to stay in protected areas as much as possible.

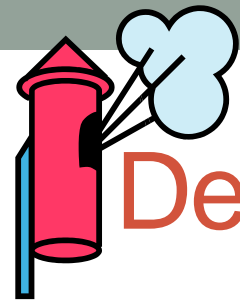
Glare Control....maybe.....

- Double up on your bet if you drive on 2 lane undivided winding roads, plus the glare issue, plus the problem of running in and out of dark shaded areas, plus the animal hazard during deer rutting season.....
- Add these factors together, and either:
 - Look for a different, safer route
 - Leave at a different time to avoid the glare issue
 - Drive a larger vehicle with more air bags, always use restraints
 - Buy more insurance



Avoid night driving when possible. More impaired drivers are out at night, esp. when bars close.

Avoid looking directly into oncoming headlights. Look to the right to avoid headlights glare.



Deer & Animal Collison Avoidance (I)

- If you live in an area with high deer population, install Deer Whistles on your vehicles. And on your kids vehicles. It's a cheap insurance policy.
- There is endless debate over their effectiveness. Who cares? If there is even a fraction of a chance that they work, you need to install them.
- When the insurance adjuster comes out to look at the wreck, this is one of the questions they will ask you. Being able to answer affirmatively makes you look like you've done your homework.
- Read the instructions for proper install and maintenance. Yes, they can become ineffective when filled with bug guts. They need to be cleaned or replaced to stay effective.
- They don't actually repel the animal, but emit a high frequency sound to alert an animal. Usually they stop and back off.
- Either way, you need the advantage of having them. How many folks have hit a deer? Raise your hands. Scary, wasn't it?



Deer & Animal Collision Avoidance (II)

- If you see the animal, **IMMEDIATELY HARD BRAKE**
- Do not SWERVE at speed. You could lose control.
- An uncontrolled lane departure risks a much worse collision– with a tree for example.
- Or with other vehicles not going in your direction. Air bags can only do so much.
- If a hit is unavoidable, **YOU TAKE THE HIT.**
- Triple laminate elastic safety glass and sheet metal will absorb a lot of energy.
- Why take the chance. That's what insurance is for.
- Don't swerve! Hard brake to decrease energy potential.



Chain Saw Safety

- Wear your safety gear, primarily chaps, gloves, hat, face shield.... That's the most critical stuff.
- Good saw handling and cutting practices are the most critical of safety measures.
- Keep the saw firmly in 2 hand control
- Stay out from behind the bar/chain.
- Watch the tip – avoid kick back. Engage the saw close to the engine housing, use the gripper teeth.
- Assess the wood you are cutting. Where will it go when released? Will it spring back or shift toward you?
- Always leave yourself an OUT when using the saw.



Common Mistakes



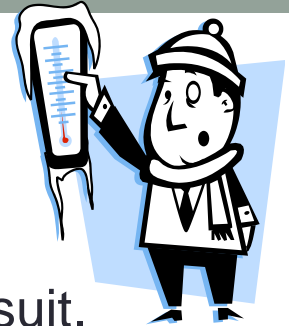
- Overconfidence, complacency, inattention.
- Trying to rush, pushing the saw, careless operation.
- Use of defective safety gear or outright failure to use safety gear. Laziness.
- Inadequate footwear – most saw injuries are to foot and lower leg. Think: chaps; steel toe boots.
- Many saw accidents occur after a storm. Trees are down, power is out. Fatigue, stress, trying to rush, working alone, pushing the limits.
- Think. Have a safety plan when you pull out any power tool. Be deliberate. Follow accepted safety practice as much as possible to reduce your risk from an uncontrolled event.

Cold Weather Preparedness



- Several LIGHT LAYERS of clothing are more effective in keeping you warm than a couple of heavy bulky layers.
- Warm air is an insulator, trapped between layers.
- You can add or remove layers to adjust for change in temps.
- Lined pants or long johns are very comfortable.
- Waffle pattern fabric creates air spaces.
- Wool and cotton blends are good. Polyester does not hold any heat and has poor respiration. You'll be sweaty.
- Rain gear usually needs venting, otherwise you will build up a lot of humidity. Wear a light jacket or vest under the vinyl.
- Protect head, neck, chest and upper body where core body heat is most important for vital organ function.

Cold Weather Tips



- Driving or riding in a vehicle does not typically require a snow suit. Vehicles warm up quickly. Plan for comfort and mobility on a long drive or if you will be in & out of the vehicle frequently.
- A short jacket or vest is more suited to driving than a long coat or rain gear. Long coats help reduce wind chill. Tuck in trouser cuffs.
- Heavy mud – keep the floor and area around pedals CLEAN. Mud will freeze overnight and you could have issues when starting out.
- In very cold weather, test your brakes before moving to make sure they're not frozen.
- Be aware that driving in wet conditions can affect your braking ability. Lightly drag your brake to dry off rotors after going thru water.
- Check your tire pressures for correct inflation range. Seasonal variations will cause gradual loss of pressure. Use a gauge.
- Wet leaves = slippery conditions. Slow down, stay on dry pavement, practice your 5 Keys of Defensive Driving!!!

Seasonal Reminders – Wash Your Hands!

- Use a Barrier Crème to protect exposed skin, esp. the hands – and get a Flu Shot.
- WASH or sanitize your hands after contact with anything icky, or for example, other human contact surfaces, such as door handles, keyboards, stair rails, etc.
- Wear gloves to improve your grip and protect your skin from direct contact with ‘stuff’.
- Stay hydrated year round. Drink water or juice, avoid soda and energy drinks.
- Get enough sleep to prevent daytime drowsiness. Fatigue leads to errors in judgment and you forget stuff, such as your safety glasses.

